

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, May 11, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick, and Kara Pantano, Student Representative.

Present in the audience were: Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park Principal; Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal; Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Jefferson Co-Principals; Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal; Mrs. Scott; Mr. Harden, Band Director, band members, members of the Rockland Energy Committee, and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Mr. Norris announced that Mrs. Pezzella was not in attendance due to illness.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the Public Hearing on School Choice for the 2009-2010 School Year was opened.

After a brief discussion, the hearing was closed. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted not to participate in School Choice for the 2009-2010 School Year. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the Public Hearing on School Choice was closed.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2009 were accepted.

The Superintendent announced an award from Loyola University to Mr. Grimmatt, Social Studies Chairperson. The award was generated from a former student stating that Mr. Grimmatt had made a positive influence on her while at Rockland High School. Mr. Retchless commended Mr. Grimmatt. The Superintendent commented on the Drama Club's three one-act plays that were presented last weekend. Mr. Retchless informed the Committee about a fundraiser being done by the 99 Restaurant and also stated that the swine flu scare has been reduced. The Superintendent noted the activities of the Great Schools, Great Town Committee and announced that taping of an informational program will be done this week.

On four motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following April Monthly Reports were approved:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath,
Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance | Mrs. Cann |
| 3) Nurse | Mrs. Ryan |
| 4) Pupil Personnel Services | Ms. Salem |

On five separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for April were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The following May Newsletters were noted:

- 1) Esten
- 2) Jefferson
- 3) Memorial Park
- 4) Middle School

Building Rentals for April were noted.

Mr. Harden, Director of Music, gave the Committee an overview of the trip to Washington, DC that was taken recently by the high school band. The students toured museums and visited many monuments and memorials. The Committee watched a slide presentation that highlighted the trip. The high school students related their favorite parts of the trip. Students participated in a band clinic at Howard University. Mr. Harden expressed his pride with the outstanding behavior on the part of the students while on the trip.

Mr. Joseph Swindler, General Manager of the 99 Restaurant, gave the Committee an overview of the fundraiser that is being carried out at the restaurant. A percent of the gross sales at the restaurant from May 18th to June 18th will be donated to the Rockland Public Schools. The donation will be used to renovate the stage floor. The Committee commended Mr. Swindler and the restaurant for their efforts in this project.

Mrs. Werkheiser reported that the School Building Committee had received a letter from the MSBA with four options for the Middle School project. A proposal will be made at the July 29th Board meeting of the MSBA with regard to the specific option that will be chosen. Geotechnical tests have been done on the school grounds and representatives from Dore & Whittier have met with the staff to survey specific needs. The staff has toured two school buildings in the area. The Building Committee will now meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Mrs. Werkheiser encouraged the public to attend.

Mr. Mullen noted that there was no recent news regarding the Budget Sub-Committee as the Committee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Instrument Rental Bid was awarded to Rayburn Musical Instrument Co., Inc. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

Ms. Perrilli, Chairman of the Town Energy Committee, called the Energy Committee to order for the purpose of discussing the RHS Solar Project. A discussion followed regarding the placement and size of the array, engineering expertise of bidders, experience, and references. The School Committee voted to award the project to Fall River Electrical Associates. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous. Ms. Perrilli and Mr. Mullen commended Mr. Scarpelli for his extensive assistance in this project. The Energy Committee also voted unanimously to award the project to Fall River Electrical Associates. Ms. Perrilli commended Mrs. Werkheiser for her efforts during the bid process.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the 2009-2010 Contracted Special Education Transportation Bid was awarded as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent to SCO Transportation, South Shore Community Action Counsel Inc., Dunham Transportation, North River Collaborative, RAZ, Inc., Foxx Transportation and Rockland Public Schools.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the HVAC Bid was awarded to Huntington Controls, Inc. The company will be the three year energy consultants as well. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to re-appoint Kenneth Dunn, Director of Buildings and Grounds, to the Permanent Building Committee. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

Mrs. Scott, RTI Coordinator, gave the Committee an update of this system approach to Language Arts Program. Students were tested in the fall and again in the spring to determine progress. Each student receives forty-five minutes per day of reading in this group program. The Committee and the Superintendent commended Mrs. Scott for her outstanding efforts in getting this program completely operational in such a short time. Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park School Principal, and Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal, noted the remarkable results that the students have achieved. It was noted that all staff, including Principals, teachers, and members of the assessment teams have contributed to the success of this program.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, it was voted to approve a \$250 donation from the Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 841 Social Fund and to send a thank you letter. The donation will be used to partially renovate the High School Library.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, it was voted to approve a donation of classroom supplies from Phillip Wood, Nailman Construction, and to send a thank you letter.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve an out-of-state field trip to the Great East Festival and Canobie Lake Park, NH for the Middle School Band. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve Thursday, June 18, 2009, as the last day of school for the 2008-2009 School Year. It will be a half day for students. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed Underclassmen Final Examination Schedule. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

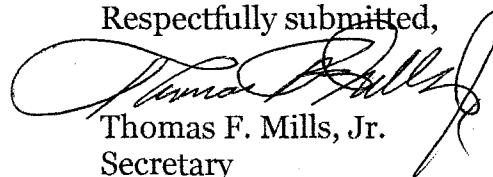
On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to table the proposed 2009-2010 Middle School Program of Studies. It was noted that there are no changes.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced that High School students will have a half day on Friday, May 15, 2009 due to a teacher in-service, that the Junior Prom will be held on Friday, May 15th and that the National Honor Society induction will be held on Wednesday, May 13th.

Mr. Mullen again thanked Mr. Scarpelli for his work on the energy project and commended Mrs. Werkheiser for her coordination of the program that was presented by the District Attorney on drinking and driving. Mr. Norris thanked the townspeople for coming to the town meeting and encouraged everyone to vote at the election on May 30th. It was also noted that the Great Schools, Great Town Committee held a very successful fundraiser recently and continues to work on passing the overrides. Mr. Retchless announced the Cadogan's Road Run that will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Mr. Norris commended Mr. Retchless and Mr. Scarpelli for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the school district.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas F. Mills, Jr.', is written over the typed name and title.

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary